

Council on Aging Board Meeting

Minutes of May 14, 2003

In Attendance:

Chairman Paul Keegan, Vice-Chairman Helene Tanenholtz, Board members Al Crommett, Betty Chamberlin, Tim Swiss, Lillian Goodman and Secretary John Concordia. Director Sharon Yager and Dolores Lake (representing the Shrews.Comm.Part. /Children) were also present.

1. Chairman's Comments:

The chairman opened the meeting at 10:05. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted by the board. Paul then led a lengthy discussion of an offer by Mr.Osborn of the Shrewsbury Housing Authority to provide financial assistance in the operation of the COA van service. This proposed help would be provided by means of a "voucher" system, which would be made available to eligible residents of Shrewsbury's subsidized housing. Approximately \$900/mo.may be available. Details of the administration will be worked out between the COA and Mr.Osborn.

2. Director's Comments:

Sharon reported that she had finished her graduate class work and will have a formal presentation to make as well. She indicated that she would be continuing with a light summer schedule this year.

3. Liaison Reports:

Central MA Agency on Aging: Vicki Zwerdling left a copy of the April 17,2003 Advisory Council meeting minutes, which are available for review at the COA office.

Friends of the SCC, Inc.: Helene reported that the present officers will continue for another year; that the newsletter costs (\$700/mo.) and advertiser difficulties continue to be a burden; that the group will have its annual luncheon at Indian Meadows on June 19th this year; and finally that outdoor storage space will be provided to the Center by the Friends.

Shrews.Comm.Part./Children: Dolores reported that the Mass.Dept.of Education had made a review of the program sites and found them to be meeting State criteria adequately. This is a positive example of good inter-generational activities in town.

Elder Home Care Services of Worcester, Inc.: Sharon reported that we have a letter from Elder Home Care indicating that the FY'04 budget may see a 90% reduction. We have about 150 households in town being serviced by Elder Home Care.

4.Old Business:

Age Center/Nutrition issue travails continue to absorb much of the chairman's time and energy. He and Sharon are working toward a session with John Belding at CMAA including other COA directors who are having similar difficulties with the Age Center.

Policy and Procedures document has been reviewed by the town manager with one minor correction suggested. The board agreed with the change suggested and voted to approve the document for implementation.

Computer Projects status was reviewed for the board by Sharon---printer requirements for the staff seemed to be in good shape but the mailing list difficulties remain to be resolved. Lillian offered volunteer help that Sharon agreed to pursue.

Health Fair: Lillian reported that the committee is working on a "theme" for the affair now scheduled for the last Friday in September this year. As a relative aside Paul mentioned that a Dermatology screening was to be held on May 17 at Hahnemann Hospital.

5. New Business:

State Formula Grant: Sharon indicated that the grant would be \$20,544 for FY04. Helene raised a question regarding the general survey. Data input effort has been slow—Al Crommett volunteered to provide some help to move the effort along.

Outreach position: Sharon reported that the advertisement for the position had produced over 70 inquiries to date but no applications have been received yet.

Volunteer Ice Cream Social: Feedback from Marcia on this year's event was positive—about 100 people attended.

Election of Officers: for next year was held—the current officeholders agreed to serve for one more year—the board approved unanimously.

MCOA/CMACA Spring Conference: Sharon indicated that the conference would be held at the Passionists Retreat Center on South Street in Shrewsbury on May 22, 2003.

Board Workshop: The board decided to set up another workshop after the June meeting—hoping that survey data may be ready by then.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45

Respectfully submitted,

John Concordia, Secretary